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DE RUEHNO #0531 3231155
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM USMISSION USNATO
TO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 1289
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3618
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNOSC/ORG FOR SECURITY CO OP IN EUR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0715
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0707
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 0498
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1029
RUEHUM/AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR PRIORITY 0035
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0118
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1098
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USDELMC BRUSSELS BE PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NATO SYG STATEMENT ON KARZAI INAUGURATION

On November 19, NATO Secretary General Rasmussen released the following statement on the inauguration of Afghan President Karzai:

BEGIN TEXT

19 Nov. 2009

Press Release: (2009) 177

Statement by the Secretary General on the inauguration of President Karzai

On behalf of NATO, I congratulate President Karzai on taking office for his second term as leader of Afghanistan. This is an historic event: the second time in modern Afghan history that a government has taken office peacefully. It is a testimony to the courage of the Afghan people, and their determination to exercise their hard-won democratic right to choose their own leaders.

President Hamid Karzai has our best wishes for his second five-year term. We strongly support his intention to form a capable and inclusive administration, and to make it accountable, one in which corruption has no place. It is critically important that the Afghan people, and the citizens of the countries sending troops to the international mission, see concrete progress in this regard.

We are entering a time of transition. Afghans will increasingly take leadership of their own affairs. NATO, through the International Security Assistance Force, will work with the new Government to enable the Afghan National Security Forces to assume lead responsibility for their country's security, district by district and province by province, when conditions permit.

END TEXT

DAALDER